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go in the day time, not a glimpse of them was to be seen at all at all; but when they had it built, they went and lived in it, and said mass in it every Sunday and holyday, and when they died they were buried in the little churchyard at the back iv it, and by reason of that, Ma'am, its the blessedest place in the three counties."

The recital of the legend afforded me considerable amusement, and, Mr. Editor, if you think it likely to gratify your readers, it is at your service.

W. C. L.

WHALE CATCHING.

SIR—The following curious incident is taken from Captain Hall's "Fragment of Voyages," first series, vol. 1, pages 122 to 129. It has occurred to me that it might not be deemed unworthy a place in the Penny Journal, especially as, in all probability, but few of your readers have had an opportunity of seeing it in the original work. In case it meets your approval, its early insertion will oblige,

Sir, yours, E. P. C.

"One of our party of mids (midshipmen), who has since turned out a valuable and enterprising officer, took it in his head to make a trip in one of the whale-boats of the Bermuda fishery. Having ascertained the time of starting, he obtained leave to go on shore, and completely succeeded in his object by being present at the capture of a whale. The monster, however, led them a considerable dance off to sea, and it was long after the time appointed for his return, when the youth made his appearance, delightfully perfumed with blubber; and with a glorious tale to tell of his day's adventure. This was voted by acclamation to be something like an expedition; and the youngster of course, gained great credit for his spirit. I was one of another party, who, I suppose, being a little jealous of our companion's laurels, took the earliest opportunity of trying to signalize ourselves in a similar way. A monstrous whale was seen one morning playing about the Leander, in Murray's anchorage, (at Bermuda) and of course, far within the belt of reefs already described as fringing the roadstead on its eastern and northern sides. How this great fellow had got into such a scrape, we could not conjecture. Possibly, in placing himself alongside of the rugged coral ledges, to scrub off the incrustations of shell-fish which torment these monsters of the deep, he had gradually advanced too far; or, more probably, he may have set out in pursuit of some small fry, and before he was aware of it, have threaded his way amongst this labyrinth of rocks, till escape was impossible. At all events, he now found himself in comparatively deep water, from eight to ten fathoms, without any visible means of retreat from his coral trap. All hands crowded into the rigging to see the whale floundering about; till at length some one proposed—rashly enough certainly—to pay him a visit in one of the ship's boats, with no better implements, offensive or defensive, than the ordinary boat-hooks. These are light poles, with a spike, not unlike a shepherd's crook, at the end of them, and not bad things for fishing up a turtle, when caught napping, but slender reeds in all conscience, against a fish, forty or fifty feet long!

Away we went, however, in our wild goose, whale chase, without any precise idea as to what we were to do if we should come up with the game. When we got near the great leviathan, his aspect became more and more formidable; and it was necessary to think of some regular plan of attack, if any were to be made; as to defence, it may easily be imagined that was out of the question, for one whisk of his tail would have sent the cutter and her crew, boat-hooks, and all, spinning over the fore and yard-arm of the flag-ship. All eyes were now upon us, and after a pause it was agreed unanimously, that we should run right on board of him, and take our chance. So we rowed forward, but the whale, whose back was then just shewing above the water, like a ship, keel upwards, perhaps not approving of our looks, or possibly not seeing us, slipped down clean out of sight, leaving only a monstrous whirlpool of oily-looking water, in the vortex of which we continued whirling round for some time, like great ninnies

as we were, and gaping about us. At this time we were not above half a ship's length from the Leander, so that our disappointment caused considerable amusement on board, and the people came laughing down from the rigging where they had been perched, to see the grand fight between the whale and the young gentlemen!

As we were lying on our oars, and somewhat puzzled what to do next, we beheld one of the most extraordinary sights in the world—at least I do not remember to have seen many things which have surprised me so much, or made a deeper impression on my memory. Our friend, the whale, probably finding the water disagreeably shallow, for as I have said, it was not above fifty or sixty feet deep, or perhaps provoked at not being able to disentangle himself from the sharp coral reefs, or for some other reason of pleasure or of pain, suddenly made a spring out of the water. So complete was this enormous leap, that for an instant we saw him fairly up in the air, in a horizontal position, at a distance from the water not much short, I should think, of half his own breadth! His back, therefore, must have been at least twenty feet, in perpendicular height, over our heads. While in his progress upwards, there was in his spring some touch of the vivacity with which a trout or a salmon shoots out of the water, but he fell back again on the sea, like a huge log thrown on its broadside, and with such a thundering crash, as made all hands stare in astonishment, and the boldest held his breath for a time. Total demolition, indeed, must have been the inevitable fate of our party, had the whale taken his leap one minute sooner, for he would then have fallen plump on the boat. The waves caused by the explosion spread over half the anchorage; nor if the Leander herself had blown up, could the effects have extended much further. As we rolled about in the cutter from side to side, we had time to balance the expediency of further proceedings against the tolerable chance of being smashed to atoms under the whale's belly at his next leap.

All idea of capturing him was now, of course, given up; if, indeed, any such frantic notion could have seriously entered our heads. But our curiosity was vehemently roused to witness such another feat, and after lying on our oars for some time, we once more detected the whale's back at a little distance from us.

"Let us poke him up again," cried one of the party. 'Agreed, agreed!' roared out the others, and away we dashed, in hopes of producing a repetition of this singular exploit. The whale, however, did not choose to exhibit any more, though we were often near him. At last he fairly bolted, and took the direction of the north rock, hoping to make his escape by the narrow passage known only to the most experienced pilots of these intricate regions."

IRISH BRAVERY AND HONOR.

On the surprise of Cremona, by Prince Eugene, in 1702, when Villeroy, the French general, most of the officers, military chests, &c., were taken, and the German horse and foot were already in possession of all the town, excepting one place only, called the Po-gate, which was guarded by two Irish regiments, commanded by O'Mahony, and Bourke; before the prince commenced the attack there, he sent to expostulate with them, and shew them the rashness of sacrificing their lives where they could have no probability of relief, and to assure them, if they would enter into the imperial service, they should be directly and honorably promoted; the first part of this proposal they heard with impatience, the second with disdain. "Tell the prince," said they, "that we have hitherto preserved the honor of our country, and that we hope this day to convince him, that we are worthy of his esteem; while one of us exists, the German eagle shall not be displayed upon these walls. This is our deliberate resolution, and we will not admit of further capitulation." The attack was commenced by a large body of foot, supported by five thousand cuirassiers, and after a bloody conflict of two hours, the Germans retreated; the Irish pursued their advantage, and attacked them in the streets; before evening the enemy were expelled the town; and the general and the military chests recovered.